

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE). XCIV.

A NEW GENUS, PLATYPODANTHERA.

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The genus Platypodanthera is described for a single species originally described as Ageratum melissaefolium DC. and later transferred to Trichogonia by Mattfeld. The species has presented problems in each of the genera and recent redefinitions of Ageratum and Trichogonia have served to emphasize the distinctive nature of the species.

Platypodanthera differs from Ageratum by the short broad fimbriate setae of the pappus, by the long slender base on the achene, and by the lack of sunken glandular punctations on the leaves. The base of the achene and the more setose pappus are more like Trichogonia but Platypodanthera differs by the conical receptacle, the broader fimbriate rather than plumose pappus setae, the smooth stems, and the glabrous corolla. One feature of the new genus seems totally distinctive, the anther collar is usually very short and becomes very broad in the lower part, often being as wide as long. It is after this feature that the name Platypodanthera is taken.

A possible second species of the genus has been described from Brazil as Trichogonia barrosoana Barroso having conical receptacles, short non plumose pappus setae and glabrous corollas. The latter species differs from P. melissaefolia by being tomentose, having short-petiolate leaves, and having setae on the achenes.

Platypodanthera R.M.King & H.Robinson, genus novum Asteracearum (Eupatorieae). Herbae vel suffrutices erecti vel procumbentes basin versus ramosi. Caules teretes sublaeves glabri. Folia plerumque alterna distincte petiolata, laminis ovatis vel late lanceolatis base subtruncatis vel cordatis. Inflorescentiae laxae cymosae vel corymbosae; pedicelli superne latiores fistulosi; involucri squamae subimbricatae ca. 35 biseriatae subaequilongae oblongo-lanceolatae extus glabrae; receptacula alte conica glabra. Flores ca. 100 in capitulo; corollae anguste infundibulares breves, lobis late triangularibus laevibus glabris;

filamenta antherarum in parte superiore perlata saepe breviora, cellulis plerumque quadratis, parietibus valde annulate ornatis, appendices parum breviores quam latiores; styli base glabri non nodulosi, appendicibus longe clavatis laevibus. Achaenia prismatica multisetifera 5-costata base anguste prolongata; carpopodia minuta, cellulis 2-3-seriatis quadratis, parietibus aliquantum incrassatis; pappus breviter setiformis uniseriatus, setae 15-20 anguste lanceolatae margine dense longe fimbriatae.

Species typica: Ageratum melissaefolium DC.

The genus is monotypic.

Platypodanthera melissaefolia (A.P.Decandolle) R.M.
King & H.Robinson, comb. nov. Ageratum melissaefolium A.P.Decandolle, Prodr. 5: 109. 1836.
Brazil.

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